

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The number of millionaires in England is not as great as one might believe. According to the report of the income tax officials there are in England seventy-one persons with an annual income of \$250,000, over 1,100 draw \$50,000 annually, and only about 10,000 have an income of \$10,000.

SEAWEED has not even in our wildest moments ever been dreamt of as an instrument of electoral corruption. Yet the Tokio newspapers just to hand contain an account of the trial of a member of the Japanese Parliament who was accused of bribery by corrupting his constituents with presents of edible seaweed.

BULLET-PROOF vestments turn up everywhere. To be shot at by soldiers is really the latest fad. While the nations of the earth have been spending millions of money to create impregnable armor out of steel, subjected to every possible process, tailors, candle-stick makers and fakirs have known all the while of a common substance that would withstand any bullet.

NATURAL gas is gradually declining in pressure throughout the country. From a pressure of 210 pounds in 1887, it is now reduced to less than half that amount. The banner year was 1888, when the product reached a value of \$22,000,000. Last year the product was worth less than \$15,000,000. Indiana was the leading State, her product alone being valued at \$5,718,000, and it was the only State showing an increase for 1890.

THE Rev. Dr. Griffith John, an American missionary at Shanghai, says that the opium habits of the Chinese will tell against them in time of war. A native writer, speaking of the enormous deportation of opium from India to China, says: "It is not only that the foreigners abstract so many millions of our money, but the direct appearance seems to indicate a wish on their part to utterly root out and exterminate us as a people."

THE Philadelphia Police Department has just made a contract for the purchase of an electric launch, to be used as a harbor patrol boat. The great speed which these little craft can be made to develop, together with their noiselessness, makes them admirably adapted for such a purpose. It is held that they will prove successful in approaching vessels without alarming any thieves who might be at work on their decks. Should this experiment with the boat prove a success the electric launch service will be made an important adjunct to the Philadelphia Police Department.

THE gross capital stock of all American railways exceeds \$5,000,000,000. The average dividend since 1890 has been less than 2 per cent. In 1890 seventy-five American railways, operating over 25,000 miles, went into the hands of receivers, with a bonded indebtedness alone of \$18,000,000,000. It is estimated that over five million of our population are dependent for livelihood on the railways of the United States. The comparison of the miles of railroad to each ten thousand of population, as stated by Senator Call recently in Florida is 63 miles; Georgia, 25; Alabama, 22; North Carolina and South Carolina each 20; Virginia, 21; Tennessee, 16, and Kentucky, 15.

According to the Lewiston Journal a Maine man says that the wild lands of Maine would make thirteen States as large as Rhode Island, two as large as New Hampshire and Vermont, and one twice as large as Massachusetts. These lands are located in the following counties: Aroostook, 2,888,618 acres; Franklin, 589,902 acres; Hancock, 362,893 acres; Oxford, 559,651 acres; Penobscot, 827,604 acres; Piscataquis, 2,000,544 acres; Somerset, 1,735,898 acres; Washington, 624,123 acres. The spruce timber lands of Maine are worth more to-day than the pine fifty years ago. This statement is based on the opinion of lumbermen who have been engaged in the business for forty years. The value of these spruce lands has been greatly enhanced by the enormous demand for pulp wood.

SAYS A GOSPEL in the St. Louis Globe Democrat: "The town of Kilgerberg, in Bavaria, has some very valuable mines and pits which it works itself. The surplus revenue is more than sufficient to run the town, carry on all works of improvement and pay a small sum annually to every man who has occupied a residence for at least twelve months. There is a town in France which has an enormous amount of money invested at the bank, the result of a princely bequest, and the interest on this nearly repays all local expenses. While mentioning this fact in London on my way home, I was told that in a great part of Yorkshire no taxes of any kind were levied during 1893. This was not the result of any great windfall, but of a clerical error in preparing the estimates for 1892, which resulted in a surplus being left more than sufficient for the requirements of the following year."

It is said that while the fashion of writing one's name with a middle initial, thus, John A. Smith, is rapidly disappearing from America, it is as rapidly becoming the fashion in England. This way of the writing the name was not long ago so widely recognized as distinctively American that foreigners, writing to an American who had no middle name, or one which the correspondent did not know, would always invariably supply one, thus, John X. Smith or William Z. Jones. Americans are dropping the fashion now, and writers sign their full names, as William Denn Howells, Ruth McEnery Stuart, while society men have come to use the initial first, "part their names in the middle," thus, J. Alonzo Smith, W. Henry Jones. The old American habit is rapidly taking possession of England, and it is said that the fashion was set by Mr. Gladstone, who has invariably signed his name William B. Gladstone.

SENATOR MANDERSON, of Nebraska, in discussing the Indian appropriation bill before the Senate, caused to be printed in the Congressional Record the latest special study of the Indian question, "North American In-

dians in the United States," by Thomas Donaldson, expert special agent of the Census Bureau. It is a most exhaustive and comprehensive review of the whole subject, a most valuable work of reference to which every student should have access. Mr. Donaldson's conclusions as to the best Indian policy for the future is stated in these words:

"Finally, the changes necessary in the Indian policy to improve the Indian condition are: Enforced education under authority of the nation or the States and Territories; enforced labor, by making the reservation Indians work for themselves, either as laborers, herders or farmers; enforced allotment on proper land, with allowance for houses, cattle and horses prior thereto from the proceeds (perhaps) of their surplus lands; in fact, a start in life, especially for the squaws and children, thus securing for them settled homes. This is the culmination of the success and failure of the entire Indian administration for the past one hundred years, and the earthly salvation of the remaining reservation Indians depends upon it."

## BATTLE WITH AN OCTOPUS.

Five Fishermen Have a Terrible Experience.

A huge octopus was hoisted on Fisherman's Wharf on Thursday afternoon from Capt. Charles Collins' boat, and the four members of the crew shuddered as they handled it and told of their terrible fight far out from the land. The monster covered a large section of the wharf, and its long tentacles were avoided by the curious crowd with dread. Several of the fish are caught each week and brought to the dock by the curious boats of the fishermen, but never had so large a one been carried in through the Heads as the one caught by Captain Collins and his crew. The long tentacles when spread apart measured about twenty-five feet from tip to tip, and they were armed all the way along with dreadful sucker-like mouths that sucked the life from their victims.

"It was a fearful fight that we had with the monster," said Captain Collins, in his broken Greek, "and it is only by a miracle that I am here to tell of it. Wednesday morning we commenced to take up our lines as usual. There came a violent tug at the line, and a huge arm of the monster flashed out of the water and landed across the gunwale of the boat. In an instant it fastened its tenacious suckers, while the water about the boat was lashed into a foam. An octopus can be killed almost instantly if it can be stabbed just below the eye, even if the weapon be only the small blade of a pocket knife, and when the fellow rose so close to me and presented such a good opportunity for the death blow, I reached for the boat-hook and made a lunge for the vital spot. As I did so the boat careened violently, and instead of dispatching the brute only inflicted a wound that maddened the monster the more. The battle then became one of life or death between us. A couple more of the arms of the octopus had by this time been wound around the boat and they reached from stem to stern. The boat was completely enveloped by them, and all hands were kept busy to escape being caught in the clutches of the relentless suckers. The small craft rolled and rocked in the arms of the monster, and every moment it threatened to throw all five of us into the water. Blows had no effect on the huge tentacles. The men belabored what parts of the fish they could reach with clubs, but the effect was like pounding a piece of rubber. "One of the stout fishhooks had caught securely in the body of the brute and a couple of the men began to haul in on the stout line. Steadily the men hauled away until the body was dragged upward and as it reached the surface the sharp spike of the boat hook was driven with a hand of desperation deep into the brute's body just below the eye and the victory was won."—[San Francisco Examiner.]

What Soda Will Do.

In washing dish towels, brushes, the sink and other utensils, dissolved soda will be found most useful, cleaning and sweetening all that it touches. It should be kept in a large olive bottle and should be labeled "washing soda."

To prepare it put one pint of the dry soda in a saucepan kept for this purpose, and add to it three quarts of boiling water. Let this mixture stand upon the stove, stirring it frequently, until the soda is dissolved. When cold put into bottles. This preparation when hot is an excellent agent for cleaning and sweetening the plumbing in the house. Pour a pint of the hot liquid into each bowl, basin and sink about once a fortnight. As the liquid unites with grease it keeps the kitchen sink pipes free of greasy deposits. It is well to buy this soda by the quarter barrel. It is extremely cheap when bought by the quantity.—[New York World.]

Turned the Crank Too Fast.

Frank Seimella, an Italian organ grinder, called at the Emergency Hospital last night. He appeared to be in great misery, and Dr. Fyfe asked him what the matter was.

"I got in a sprain-a wrist," "How did it happen?" inquired the doctor.

"I play a 'High School-a Cadet-ta.' Him very fast to make-a demon. He sprain-de wrist."

Further inquiry brought out the fact that the Italian had been playing in front of the American House, and that some men had offered him half a dollar if he would play as fast as he could. In trying to comply with the request he had twisted his wrist out of joint.—[Boston Herald.]

Fast Freight-Run.

What is claimed to have been the fastest long-distance freight-run ever made in this country was made from Memphis to Kansas City by a special train loaded with bananas on June 13, the speed averaging 40.4 miles an hour for the 484 miles, and reaching a maximum of 64 miles an hour, which was kept up for six miles.—[Chicago Herald.]

## FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS.

THE GENERAL.

The nursery regiment one day Were marching up and down, With flying flags and beating drums, The prettiest sight in town.

And little Willie on the steps Was gazing at the band; Why not among the warriors I did not understand.

Until I asked the question straight, When flashed his eyes of blue; "I am the General," he cried, "Who must the troops review."

—[Harper's Young People.]

RAINY DAY GAMES.

A "bogge party" is one of the liveliest of games for small folks. It has been found to make enough fun for a whole long, rainy afternoon.

Each child has a well-sharpened lead pencil and some large sheets of paper.

When the leader says "All ready!" each player goes into a corner or behind a chair, or under the table—anywhere that will prevent the others from seeing his work.

All have been told by the leader that each is to draw a picture showing his idea of what a "bogge" looks like.

When the leader says "Time's up!" they come out from their corners and compare "boggies." The most ridiculous picture is marked highest, "No. 10." The others are marked in proportion down to "No. 1."

When they are tired of drawing they must either redeem their pictures from the leader by paying such forfeits as he chooses to impose, or they may take a vote to see whether in place of paying forfeits they will tie their sheets of pictures together into an album and present it to "No. 10."

All this does not "read" as funny as it really is, but children who try the game will have a great frolic.

"Progressive drawing" is another good game. Each child has a pencil. The leader has a big sheet of foolscap paper. He starts off by drawing a straight line about two inches long in the middle of the sheet.

The second player draws another line two inches long, joining it to the first line at one or other of the two ends. The third player then adds a line of equal length and joins it to the others at any angle to suit himself in the manner that he considers the most funny.

By the time four or five lines have been added someone sees that a queer, looking figure is being made, and then the lines are placed at every conceivable angle, each trying to add to the fun, and after a while it results in a figure that is like nothing on the earth or under the sea. Wonderful creatures are thus created.—[St. Louis Republic.]

SPIDERS AND THEIR WAYS.

In the sea there are plenty of spiders. They are found crawling upon seaweeds along the shore. Their bodies are very small and their legs long and threadlike. There is a species of rachid that lives under the water in fresh ponds. It makes its home in an empty shell of a water snail, closing the opening with a web of varnished silk to keep the water out. Other aquatic spiders spread silken filaments under water to entrap insects. In New Zealand there is a black spider with a red spot on its stomach, which is supposed to have a bite fatal to human beings. The same animal has a similar reputation elsewhere, though undeservedly. It is found in this country.

All spiders are venomous, but none of them are deadly. The spider of ill-repute above mentioned is afflicted with constitutional hydrophobia. It will go into a fit if touched with water, though other species will drink eagerly if a drop of that fluid is offered on a straw. A severe spider bite produces symptoms like those of lockjaw. In the tropics live great hairy spiders. Some of them weigh half a pound, with a spread of legs wide enough to cover a tea plate. Most of them spin no webs, but dig a hole in the ground, line it with silk and fit it with a trapdoor so artfully made as to hinge, bevel edge and spring that it is almost impossible to find the opening. In some cases they actually plant seeds on the dainty portal for the purpose of concealing it with growing plants.

The mission of spiders in the world is doubtless to keep down the flies, which would otherwise swarm over the earth. Only the females spin webs; the males are about one-twentieth the size of the females, the sole purpose of their existence being that of reproduction.

Spiders are very fond of the music of stringed instruments, because to their ears it resembles the buzzing of captive flies. Their greatest enemies are wasps, which paralyze them by stinging them. Then the wasp plants the spider in a hole, lays an egg beside her and covers her up. The young wasp grub, on being hatched, feeds on the body of the spider. On a warm autumn day the air is sometimes full of spiders' webs. Certain species of arachnids attach threads to the ground and permit the breeze to blow them away. Thus they remain for days suspended high in the air and miles away from their anchorage. The arrival of a moist spell of weather sometimes produces a rain of spiders' webs, causing great astonishment. Spiders are feeble creatures, their poison affording little protection against the attack of insect foes. Like human beings, they have unprotected bodies, and no natural weapons worth mentioning. Their survival in creation is due to the exercise of superior intelligence.—[Boston Transcript.]

Air-Tight Corks.

Corks may be made air and water tight by keeping them for five minutes under melted paraffine; they must be kept down with a wire screen. These corks have a perfectly smooth surface and may be introduced and drawn out easily, and seal perfectly.—[New York Advertiser.]

Last season 39,000 games of lawn tennis were played in the London parks.

## TEN MILLIONS' WORTH OF PLATE.

What It Takes to Satisfy Her Majesty's Idea of the Fitness of Things.

The recent distinguished foreign visitors to Windsor were greatly struck by the magnificence of the royal plate at the castle. Even the Czarowitz, accustomed to the almost barbaric splendor of the court function in his native land, was fain to admit that for solid worth he had never seen the equal of the English plate, says London Sketch.

The royal plate at Windsor is generally reckoned to be worth about £2,000,000, and it is no unusual thing at a state banquet at the castle to have plate to the value of half a million in the room. There are two state dinner services—one of gold and one of silver. The gold service was purchased by George IV., and will dine 120 persons. The plates alone of this service cost over £12,000. On state occasions there are usually placed on the dining table some very beautiful flagons, captured from the Spanish Armada, which are, of course, of priceless value, while the great silver wine cooler, made by Rundell & Bridge for George IV., and weighing 7,000 ounces, always adorns one corner of the apartment. As sideboard ornaments, there are pretty trifles in the way of a pen-cup of precious stones, a vase at £55,000, and a tiger's head from India, a solid ingot of gold for its tongue and diamond teeth.

This wonderful collection of plate is crown property, which practically means that it belongs to the country, and the Queen has separate collections for use at Balmoral and at Osborne, which belong to herself.

A Peculiar Breed of Cats.

In the swamps and woods that cover the southern end of Barnegat beach in South Jersey a breed of cats peculiar to that place exists. They are a tiny lot, but their hind legs are longer than their front ones, giving them the appearance of rabbits. This curious species of felines has been resident on the island for many years. One half a century ago an English bark came ashore on Barnegat's shoals, and among the things that managed to reach the beach were a number of Manx cats. These animals are found only on the Isle of Man and are without tails. For a little while the cats remained around the Barnegat light-house, but the keeper, becoming tired of their pilferings and inharmonious concerts at night, drove them away.

They took to the dense woods and thickets, where they soon multiplied very rapidly. During the winter months the swamps are visited by thousands of birds in search of food, and the tail-less cats manage to live very nicely.

Efforts to tame the felines have met with some success, and the cats make nice pets. During several winters, when the intense cold kept the birds away from Barnegat, the cats depended on the surf clams for food. The clams were thrown on shore by the waves, and becoming frozen opened their shells, making it an easy matter for the animals to secure the contents. Years of life in the woods have made them both wild and savage, and they could make a formidable stand against any one who hunts them. These strange

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animals have become expert as fishers, and often in wa in weather, when the surf is full of fish, go into the shallow water, and as a wave recedes, leaving the fish floundering in a few inches of water, fasten their claws in its sides and drag it beyond the reach of the incoming waves. The animals present a curious appearance, as they jump about much as kangaroo does. They are expert climbers, and have been known to raise their young in hollow trees far above the ground.

Several years ago a strange disease attacked and killed many of the animals, but they soon increased to their former numbers again. In color the tailless cats resemble our domestic tiger feline, but in size they are much smaller. Their fur is coarser and longer than that found on our own tabby cats.

Cremation in Boston.

Cremation has become an accepted institution in Boston. The records of the Massachusetts Cremation Society, whose crematory is near the Forest Hills Cemetery, show that up to June 1, i. e., five months since the opening of the crematory, there have been forty-five incinerations, the number constantly increasing each month. In May there were sixteen in all. Socially considered, the average time occupied for the complete reduction of the body to ashes is about one and one-half hours.—Boston Transcript.

Earnings of the House of Lords.

Whoever may be the shortcomings of the House of Lords as a political institution, it pays its way. In the last financial year it earned over £22,000 in fees on private bills and judicial proceedings. There is also an item of £12,133 shillings, being fees paid on the introduction of peers. Against this stands a charge of £32,10 shillings, fees due to Garter-king-of-arms. It is interesting to note that before the sum was paid over income taxes amounting to 15 shillings 11 pence was vigorously extracted.—London News.

Gov. ROBERT L. TAYLOR of Tennessee will not be a candidate for United States Senator to succeed Isham G. Harris, whose term expires March 3, 1895. Mr. Taylor has met with great success as a lecturer, and says he is piling up money for a rainy day.

Just the Thing.

This is an expression the traveling public general use when they find something that is exactly what they want. This expression applies directly to the Wisconsin Central Lines, which is now admitted by all to be the best route to Chicago from St. Louis, Minneapolis, Ashland, Duluth and all points in the Northwest. Their double daily train service and fine equipment offers inducements which cannot be surpassed.

This is the only line running both through Pullman first-class and tourist sleepers from Chicago to Pacific Coast Points without change of cars.

For full information address your nearest ticket agent or

Jas. C. Fowd, Gen. Pass. and Tkt. Agt., Chicago, Ill.

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